

Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) October 21, 2020 Minutes

DRAFT

MEETING DETAILS	
Date and time:	October 21, 2020 from 10am to Noon
Venue:	Virtual through Google Meet due to the ongoing pandemic
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Patrice Beard (Parent and Partnership for People with Disabilities); Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton (peer); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Bruce Cruiser (MHAV), Quyen Duong (DOE); Katherine Hunter (DBHDS); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Heather Orrock (VOCAL); Patricia Parham (DOC); Heather Pate (Robin's Hope); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Kathie Moore (CSB Peer)
Guest(s)	
Unexcused Absences	Catharine Harrison (DARS); Kathleen Levenston (Private Provider); Ron Pritchard (VSIAS/VAAP/VA Recovery Coalition); Jean Hoyt (VDH); Shatada Floyd-White (Private Provider); Oketa Winn (DMAS); Gail Taylor (DBHDS)
Excused Absences	Dreamel Spady, LCSW (provider)
Minutes Taken By	Hilary Piland
Presiding Officer	Bruce Cruiser, Treasurer
Order Called	Council convened at 10:03 AM

Quorum **was** present in today's meeting (requires 13 members, a majority [7 out 13] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)
Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrice asked that all the council members on the Zoom call do an icebreaker by describing what they would do if money and time was not an issue. This was a great way for everyone to get to know one another and have some laughs. 	
Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August Minutes – There was one correction to the draft August minutes, the correct spelling of Elizabeth Bouldin Clopton’s name. Heather Orrock made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Patrice Beard seconded that motion. All approved. • Bruce shared that the Executive Committee minutes have been shared with the whole council through the email that was sent out with the meeting agenda prior to the October 21st meeting. The Executive Committee Meeting minutes are for information purposes only. 	OUTCOME: August meeting minutes were approved as amended.
Committee Reports/ Nominating Committee Report			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dreamel Spady is a new member. She will be joining the Child and Family Committee. • Sara Wilson from NAMI will be joining the Membership Committee. 	
Treasurer’s Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce shared that there is \$6,261 in the BHAC account. The DBHDS quarterly payment of \$1,800 is due soon. Bruce mentioned that since the council meetings have been virtual it is not spending money on food and travel. The council could spend money on different things than it has in the past. For example, attending trainings and using consultants are ideas for this council. 	
Membership Report:			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Orrock shared that she has created an electronic version of the membership application. She shared it with the Executive Committee for input. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One suggestion was to add in the option for preferred pronouns ○ A suggestion was to add in strategic planning to the list of options for the special skills list. <p>OUTCOME: Heather will send the link to the membership form for Kathie Moore to fill out.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Nathanael will post the link to the membership form on the DBHDS website and Bruce will post the link on the MHAV website.</p>	
DBHDS Report:			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathanael Rudney shared that COVID-19 has been a problem for DBHDS facilities. There are Covid-19 cases at 9 of the 12 DBHDS facilities. There have been 10 patient deaths since July. There are currently 143 positive cases between the staff and patients. This has been a very trying time. • The Governor issued an Executive Order in August of 2020 to try to address the capacity issues at state hospitals because of COVID-19. • Regarding the community providers during COVID, the DBHDS office of Integrated Health has registered nurse care consultants, and other allied health care professionals following up with 558 people with DD and 560 people within MH and SUD services who have either been reported to test positive for COVID-19, been tested for COVID-19 with result unknown or have been exposed. This represents 181 DBHDS licensed providers. These are efforts to reduce further community spread by identifying the barriers and challenges that community providers are encountering and providing some technical assistance for those challenges. • There is a COVID-19 Warm Line that was funded as a response to the mental health and emotional challenges people have because of COVID. This is a free resource. Anyone in Virginia can call or text to talk with someone. www.vacopes.com • Tara Belfast-Hurd shared that the staff at DBHDS that are working on the COVID-19 Emergency Grant are working on getting an advertisement out that will relate to healthcare workers, pregnant and parenting women, and individuals. They are also working on a website that will link to services. The Virginia COPES Warmline that was established as a response to the pandemic will be listed on this website. Some CSB and Community Stakeholders received 2 rounds of funding to provide services to individuals effected by COVID. This is to advertise those new services. 	
Block Grant Report:			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce asked if Nathanael has an update on the mini block grant application. Nathanael shared that his office is submitting the mini block grant report like normal. Nathanael will make sure that the Commissioner has read the letter that this council prepared for her. He will try to get a response from her office in regard to the recommendations in the letter. • Heather Orrock asked Nathanael if there has been any feedback from the SAMSHA audit that happened in September. Nathanael shared that there has not been any official feedback yet. The timeframe for getting response reports can vary, so it is not abnormal that the feedback report has not come yet. The initial feedback was positive. Nathanael felt that the auditor was happy with the direction the council is going. • The timeline for the Block Grant has not changed because of the pandemic. 	
Next Meeting and Strategic Planning			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting is December 16th from 10 am – 12 pm. It will be virtual. • The council plans to work on strategy at this meeting • Bruce shared that the council developed key issues at its June retreat that could be priorities. Each committee should see how the charge of the committee relates to each of those priority areas. If it does relate in some way, then that committee should determine how it could work on that issue. <p>OUTCOME: Committees should work off the document attached - called VA BHACB Workplan Attachment A. 6-24-20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health Support in Schools 2. Peer Supports 3. Access to Care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council's key issues can change over time as it makes sense. • The council portion of the meeting ended so that the committees could meet on their own. <p>OUTCOME: Patrice asked that each committee set a meeting date for some time in November.</p>	

Priorities for 2021 General Assembly Session

- Patrice asked if the BHAC has submitted legislation requests in the past. Bruce shared that two years ago a former member had pulled together some specific areas for state legislation. As well, other BHAC members have advocated for specific legislation.
- Bruce shared that perhaps the Executive Committee on the council should come up with a proposal for a process to advocate for legislation and budget areas. This could be presented to the council to review and adopt.
- Hilary asked if this council can advocate for certain budget areas. Nathanael thought that this is within the purview of the council's bylaws – to comment on budget. State employees may not be able to vote on these areas.

OUTCOME: Nathanael suggested that the council wait to see what the Commissioner's response to the letter is and then develop priorities from there that would be geared toward the legislators.

Notes taken by Hilary Piland

Meeting was adjourned at: 12:00 PM

Communication Subgroup Meeting:

Next Meeting(s):

October 21, 2020 at 10 am

Location of meeting: via Zoom

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON _____